

Indiana Rural Development Council

2002 Accomplishments

First Quarter:

IRDC Task Force Work:

- Facilitated Environmental Infrastructure Working Group meetings with three communities: Town of St. Paul; Town of Wanatah and Town of Fredricksburg.
- Prepared and distributed “Rural Partners”, IRDC’s quarterly newsletter, to 1,000 IRDC members and rural leaders.
- Made a follow-up visit to the Town of Marengo to check progress since Community Visitation in 1999.
- Secured entertainment contracts and sponsorships for the 2002 NRDP conference in French Lick. Hosted Steering, Hospitality, Mobile Workshop, National Planning and Publicity Committee meetings.
- Hosted meetings of the Marketing & Education Committee and the Agricultural Development Task Force.
- Developed the action plan for compliance with legislation charging IRDC with developing a Rural Economic Development Strategy. Gathered other regional plans and strategies to use as references to our strategy.
- Presented the 2002 NRDP Conference at the SIRDP meeting.

Other Activities:

- Three IRDC representatives served on the NRDP’s Strategic Assessment Task Force, which spurred work groups in four key areas pertinent to the success of the State Rural Development Councils. Participated in the NRDP’s Strategic Assessment Conference in Washington DC.
- Executive Director selected for participation in the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program – Class 10.
- Sponsored the Farmer’s Market Workshop with the Southern Indiana Rural Development Project’s Agricultural Enterprise Development Task Force.
- Staff received appointment to serve on the Indiana Heritage and Culture Council.
- Presented the Environmental Infrastructure Working Group program to Purdue Extension Training
- Presented the keynote and IRDC overview at the Rush County SWCD and Purdue Extension Board’s annual conference.
- Drafted action plan for inclusion of youth on the IRDC Governing Board.
- Participated in the business development meeting for the IBEC, Corp. in Jasper County.
- Participated in scholarship selection committee at the National FFA Headquarters

Second Quarter:

IRDC Task Force Work:

- Selected two communities for participation in this year's Community Visitation Program.
- Coordinated meetings of the IRDC's Governing Board, IRDC's Executive Committee and the IRDC, Inc.'s Board of Directors.
- IRDC hosted and facilitated 24 focus group meetings on 10 rural economic development issues for inclusion into the Rural Economic Development Strategy.
- Facilitated Environmental Infrastructure Working Group meeting with one community: Town of Kempton.
- Secured speakers and sponsorships for the 2002 NRDP conference in French Lick. Hosted Steering, Mobile Workshop, National Planning and Publicity Committee meetings.
- Participated in the Indiana Leadership Association meeting.
- Presented the Community Visitation Program to the Greensburg City Council.
- Along with partners, prepared IRDC, Inc.'s application to USDA to fund the Indiana Cooperative Development Center.

Other Activities:

- Presented rural issues at the US Small Business Administration roundtable with Administrator Baretto.
- Moderated and presented during the Community and Economic Development Forum to approximately 40 leaders in Fulton County.
- Introduced proposed Visitation for Tobacco Community in Jefferson County.
- Participated in restructuring meetings for the Indiana Dept. of Commerce.
- Presented IRDC and facilitated economic development discussion for the Cloverdale Citizens Group.
- Made remarks for the Market Analysis Presentation in Jefferson County.

Third Quarter:

IRDC Task Force Work:

- Facilitate Value-Added Business Development meeting.
- Secured speakers and sponsorships for the 2002 NRDP conference in French Lick. Hosted Steering, Mobile Workshop, National Planning, Scottsburg and Local Committee meetings. Finalized registration and packet materials.
- Hosted the NRDP's Annual Leadership Conference in French Lick, Indiana. Attendance reached 283, with 61% of registrants from Indiana.
- Facilitated Environmental Infrastructure Working Group meeting with two communities: North Montgomery Schools and the Town of Darlington.
- Worked with USDA on rural/urban comparison graphs for inclusion in the Rural Economic Development Strategy.
- Coordinated meetings of the IRDC's Governing Board, IRDC's Executive Committee and the IRDC, Inc.'s Board of Directors.
- Indiana Housing Assistance Review Team met with two communities: Elkhart County/Goldenrod Center for Disabled and Elderly Housing in Henry County.

Other Activities:

- Participated in NRDP's Accountability discussions.
- Introduced proposed Visitation for Tobacco Community in Harrison County.
- Participated in Strategic Planning process for the Indiana Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development (ICARD).
- Presented IRDC and NRDP to top-level officials at the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Meetings with USDA officials, Sen. Lugar's staff, State of Indiana staff and Congressman Baron Hill in Washington, DC.
- Presented IRDC to the LaGrange County Economic Development and Redevelopment Commissions.

Fourth Quarter:

IRDC Task Force Work:

- Coordinated meeting of the IRDC's Governing Board and IRDC's Executive Committee.
- Coordinated EIWG meetings for the City of Montpelier and the Towns of Windfall and Lanesville.
- Represented IRDC on a panel discussion at the Indiana Leadership Association's annual conference.
- Conducted a Community Visitation Program in the City of Greensburg, and introduced the program to the Rensselaer City Council.
- Coordinated an IHART meeting for Quality Housing in New Castle.
- Continued work with the Value-Added Business Development Committee.

Other Activities:

- Coordinated the North American link to the World Rural Women's Day International Teleconference, which focused on clean water issues around the globe.
- Implemented the Grant Station service to provide grant resources to our membership.
- Introduced IRDC activities with Dr. Greg Wilson, Indiana State Department of Health.
- Presented an IRDC update to the Indiana League of RC&D Councils.
- Hosted the IRDC's 9th Annual Conference, in which 189 rural development professionals were represented.
- Discussed the IRDC's successes with USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Tom Dorr.
- Hosted the 2nd annual Membership meeting of the IRDC, Inc.
- Participated in a state interagency meeting on volunteerism.